

How Long Shall I Suffer You? (Matthew 17:14-21)

- I. **The Failure That Was Encountered**
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How Long Shall I Suffer You? Matt. 17:14-21

The statements of Jesus and the descriptions of him from the word of God are what paint a picture of Him in our mind.

— This language that describes Christ to us usually paints a picture of the most loving and caring person that we could possibly think of. The most meek and mild, the most polite and winsome person we could imagine. Our image of Christ is of him holding and blessing the child, opening blind eyes, feeding hungry people. It is not of him making a scourge and lashing at money changers, calling scribes + Pharisees + hypocrites + snake.

— is it made up of the statement before us tonight?

I. The Failure That Was Encountered — In its context, this failure of disciples is after a great spiritual high. Jesus, Peter James + John coming down from the Mt of Transfiguration, to find the other disciples in the midst of failure.

A. The Accusation of the World — vs 14-16.

This father brings his son to the disciples because he is throwing demonic fits. Whether it was epilepsy or demonic possession —

— it doesn't matter, what matters is there was a problem that needed to be addressed and the disciples could not take care of the problem. "They could not cure him." I wonder is this the accusing failure of the church today. Are we in-

B. The Agreement of the Lord - vs 12 The Lord Jesus jumps right on in with this man and continues the accusation. On this rare occasion, the Lord Jesus and the world are in perfect agreement. He seems to be saying "When are you going to get it?" Why can't you help this man & his son? Not only can the world put its finger on the problem but so can Christ as well. As the Lord Jesus looking at ^{this church}

C. The Agitation in His Words - Jesus here seems to have an agitated tone, that he is being harsh. Why can't you heal this boy? But you must realize Jesus frustration lies in the fact that they had plentiful power to heal this boy already ³ given to them. Matt 10:1 in // account in Luke it is at beginning of Ch 9.

Although we have not been given sign power as apostles, still we as the children ³ of God are to

II. The Faith That is Essential - But in Jesus criticism his very first words are a light to the very heart of the people. Oh faithless and perverse generation.

Faith is the essential that was missing in miracle A. The Absence of Faith ^{vs 20} After Jesus

heals the boy's body. Then the disciples came questioning. Why? vs 19 They are better than us. We seldom realize and question our inaffection. Time for all of us to awake up! Ask why? vs 20 Unbelief! I can see them working on this boy. due

- 1) Intro: ...statement before us tonight. "How long shall I suffer you?" This statement could be phrased "How long must I put up with you?" From anyone else this statement would be considered an arrogant rant. But coming from the Lord Jesus, it is a statement that is to be considered and analyzed. Is it true that the Lord Jesus is putting up with you or with me? Let's look at this scene and see what the Lord Jesus is putting up with and how can we remedy his aggravation.
- 2) Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.
- 3) ...children of God are to have power with God. The promise of **Acts 1:8** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth* is the birthright of Every Child of God! **Ephesians 3:16** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; **Romans 15:13** Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. **2 Timothy 1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. **Ephesians 1:19-20** And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Yet we live such inept powerless lives, slaves to sin, unable to shake the world around us for Christ. He has every right to be frustrated with us.

1) ...Perverse twisted. They got it all backwards. It wasn't the place they put their hand, it wasn't the words they said, it was their faith in God. It was their eyes lifted toward God in dependence and not in ritual. Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2) Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

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2) ...that's what left this boy in his miserable condition! Not we can, but God Can! God Can! Who can prepare a table in the wilderness? God Can! Who have meet the needs of 5000 men on a hill side in Judea? God Can? Who can send revival to a nation on a bob slide toward hell? God Can! Who can still save souls and change a community one family at a time? God Can! Who can reach out and touch the lost and wayward son or daughter or mom or dad! God Can!

seen Jesus do this, he would put his hand here
he would raise him and say this. And Whom?
Opens one's, did it work? Perverse - Twisted They ①

B. The Amount of Faith - 20B Jesus then
begins to quantify this faith. This is
not the Stone Mountain size faith
of Abraham to place Isaac on altar. Or
of Noah who built an ark 100's of miles
from water. No mustard seed size faith.
Seemingly insignificant trust in God. That
is what has the ability to move mountain
these things that seem insurmountable.

C. The Abundance of Faith - 20C "Nothing
shall be impossible unto you" The abund-
ance of Faith is that there is no one thing
that is impossible for the servants of God
to perform. There is no limit to the
influence of our church, our families, our
lives, can have on the world around us empowered
by our belief that God Can. Barak Oban's
mantra "We Can" is junk, That's what left this hot

III The Fundamentals that were Emphasized
Vs 21. Howbeit this kind! This kind of
miracle. This kind of Belief. This kind
of Faith... goeth not out but by prayer and fast

A. The Surrender to Supplication
This kind of faith is expressed by
prayer. Prayer is fundamental in
faith. When you get saved, how was your

faith your belief in God expressed, by prayer. You in faith called upon the name of the Lord. Prayer is essential ingredient in faith. Remember what Heb 11:6 said... No greater expression in faith and believing than God is than to lift up your voice and cry out to Him. How faithless we are because we are so prayerless when the miracle is there. Jer 33:3

Surrender to Prayer. God does nothing but answer ^{to prayer}

B. The Seriousness of Sacrifice - Fasting

Fasting is not an option for the Christian. Jesus said in Mt 6:16 "when ye fast..." Not if ye fast, Fasting is abstain from some gratifying necessity in order to reflect the seriousness of our petition to God. The question is what do we hunger more for spiritual power or physical power. When one deprives themselves of foods they become weak, but what did the Lord Jesus tell Paul in 1 Cor 12:9-11

How serious are you when it comes to the miracle? Will you express your faith in God by prayer & Fasting. ^{Being weak in flesh, strong in spirit}

IV. Closing - How long shall I suffer you? There have been more than one occasion where, I know these words must have been directed toward me, I long and desire not to frustrate him. Let us be believing. Not faithless

- 1) **Hebrews 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, ...
- 2) **Jeremiah 33:3** Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. **Luke 11:9-10** And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. **1 John 5:14-15** And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.
- 3) **2 Corinthians 12:9-10** And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.